

CASE NO.: 50P4372  
Serial No.: 09/834,511  
May 5, 2005  
Page 2

PATENT  
Filed: April 13, 2001

1. (currently amended) A method for providing Internet content via an interactive television, comprising the acts of:

prompting at least one consumer via the interactive television for input regarding topics of interest;  
receiving consumer input regarding topics of interest;  
transmitting the consumer input to a server; and  
downloading the Internet content regarding topics of interest to the interactive television as the content regarding topics of interest becomes available and prior to receiving a consumer request for the Internet content.

2. (currently amended) A method for providing Internet content via an interactive television, comprising the acts of:

determining at least one topic of interest for at least one consumer without the user specifying the topic; and  
notifying the consumer via the interactive television regarding Internet content concerning the topic of interest.

3. (original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising the act of:  
downloading the Internet content to the interactive television.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3, wherein Internet content regarding the topic of interest is downloaded prior to receiving a request for the Internet content.

5. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the topic of interest is determined by:

1168-11.AMD

CASE NO.: 50P4372  
Serial No.: 09/834,511  
May 5, 2005  
Page 3

PATENT  
Filed: April 13, 2001

prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding topics of interest, the topics being associated by the user with a time of day.

6. (original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising the acts of:  
receiving consumer input regarding topics of interest; and  
transmitting the consumer input to a server.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the server is a Web server.

8. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the server is an interactive television server.

9. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the acts of:  
prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding priority of the topics of interest.

10. (original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising the acts of:  
receiving consumer input regarding priority of the topics of interest; and  
transmitting the consumer input to a server.

11. (original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the acts of:  
determining priority of Internet content relevant to the topics of interest; and  
downloading content relevant to the topic of interest based on the priority.

12. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the topic of interest is determined by:  
monitoring consumer responses to interactive television system server inquiries to establish at least one consumer interest pattern.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising the act of:  
recording the consumer interest pattern.

1168-11.AMD

CASE NO.: 50P4372  
Serial No.: 09/834,511  
May 5, 2005  
Page 4

PATENT  
Filed: April 13, 2001

14. (original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the act of:  
filtering future server queries at least partially based on the consumer interest pattern.

15. (currently amended) An interactive television system, comprising:  
at least one Web server having Internet content stored therein;  
at least one interactive television system server; and  
at least one interactive television, the interactive television receiving Internet content  
at least from the Web server, the interactive television system server including a program for  
automatically downloading content to the interactive television relevant to topics of interest  
to at least one consumer based on consumer input regarding user-defined priority levels of  
topics of interest for different times of day.

16. (original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the program includes:  
logic means for determining at least one topic of interest for at least one consumer; and  
logic means for notifying the consumer via the interactive television regarding Internet content  
concerning the topic of interest.

17. (original) The system of Claim 16, wherein the further program includes:  
logic means for downloading the content to the interactive television.

18. (original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the program includes:  
logic means for prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding topics of  
interest.

19. (original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the program further includes:  
logic means for receiving consumer input regarding topics of interest; and

1168-11.AMD

CASE NO.: 50P4372  
Serial No.: 09/834,511  
May 5, 2005  
Page 5

PATENT  
Filed: April 13, 2001

logic means for transmitting the consumer input to a server.

20. (original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for prompting the consumer via the interactive television for input regarding priority of the topics of interest.

21. (original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for receiving consumer input regarding priority of the topics of interest along with associated times; and

logic means for transmitting the consumer input to a server.

22. (original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for determining priority of Internet content relevant to topics of interest; and

logic means for downloading content relevant to the topic of interest based at least on the priority.

23. (original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the program includes:

logic means for monitoring consumer responses to interactive television system server inquiries to establish at least one consumer interest pattern.

24. (original) The system of Claim 23, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for recording the consumer interest pattern.

25. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for filtering future server queries at least partially based on the consumer interest pattern.

26-36 (canceled).

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